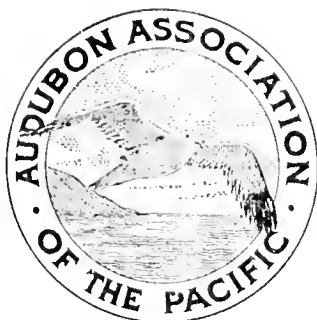


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# THE

MONTHLY



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**MAY MEETING:** The next regular meeting of the Association will be held on Thursday evening, 14th inst., at eight o'clock, in the Assembly Hall of the Public Library, corner McAllister and Larkin Sts. Take elevator to third floor. Car lines No. 5 or No. 19.

The feature of the evening will be an account by Miss Mary E. McLellan, Assistant in Ornithology, California Academy of Sciences, of "Observations of Some of the Birds of Samoa". Visitors will be made welcome.

\* \* \*

**MAY FIELD TRIP:** Mr. Emory Smith has extended an invitation to members of the Association to "bird" at his country home in the San Ramon Valley, Contra Costa County, on Sunday, May 17th. San Francisco members will take 8:00 a. m. Key Route ferry, transferring at the mole to Sacramento Short Line train. Transfer at Walnut Creek to motor bus and alight at Camille Ave. Oakland members may take train at College and Shafter Aves. at 8:35 a. m. Purchase round trip tickets to Camille Ave.; from San Francisco, \$1.70; Oakland, \$1.35.

Coffee, wieners and salad will be served at cost. Each member is asked to bring cup, fork, and any additional lunch desired. This trip is limited to members only, and it is hoped that as many as can, will participate. The district is similar in character to that met on our Lafayette trips. Leader: Miss Dorothy Schroder.

\* \* \*

**JUNE FIELD TRIP:** If an attendance of ten persons can be assured, a birding excursion will be arranged for the week-end of June 7th, to Howell Mountain, Napa County, *via* steamer to Vallejo, Saturday morning or noon; train to St. Helena and motor bus or walk eight miles to a resort on the mountain. Return Sunday evening or Monday afternoon. Approximate cost, ten dollars each.

Members interested are requested to communicate not later than May 25th with Miss D. S. Schroder, Room 269, City Hall, San Francisco, or with Mrs. A. S. Kibbe in Berkeley, indicating preference as to time of starting from S. F. and of returning. Registrations should be accompanied by deposit of \$1.50, which will be refunded in event trip is not made by the Association.

\* \* \*

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE APRIL MEETING:** The ninety-ninth regular meeting of the Association was held on April 16th, in the Assembly Hall of the San Francisco Public Library, with President Kibbe in the chair; Mrs. Kibbe, Acting Secretary; eleven members and five guests present.

Status of the Migratory Game Refuge Bill was reported by the President, noting its passage by the House with a comfortably large majority and the readiness of the Senate to put it through with an overwhelming majority, if only it had been possible to bring it to a vote at the close of the last session. Members were requested to keep the question in mind, explain it to their friends and, when advised of the proper time when it is introduced at the next session of Congress, to appeal to their senators and representatives to carry it through.

Reference was made to the successful efforts of the New Jersey Audubon Society to secure the classification of the bobolink as a song and insectivorous bird under the laws of New Jersey. On the motion of Mrs. Mexia, seconded by Miss Pettit, the Secretary was instructed to communicate to the sponsors of the bill the appreciation felt by this Association for their efforts in behalf of a valuable bird threatened with extinction.

Miss Meehan made an appeal for support, by members of the Association, of the proposition to increase salaries of San Francisco teachers.

The feature of the evening was then presented by Mr. Donald McLean, Assistant Park Naturalist, Yosemite National Park, whose residence in Coulterville had afforded unexcelled opportunities for acquaintance with the avifauna of the region within a forty-mile circle centering in the Yosemite.

The lecturer gave a series of highly entertaining accounts of life histories, with especial reference to character and location of nests, of some eighteen or twenty species of bird, and of incidental features of photographing them. He told of a Townsend solitaire, with nest built at the very low elevation of 3,000'; of an Audubon warbler, which built in an apple tree, under his window, a nest composed almost entirely of dog hair; of a nest of the hermit warbler some 80' above ground in a large fir tree, and of some young hermits which were found near Hetch Hetchy, nearly dead with parasites; of nests of the black-throated gray warbler, Mariposa fox sparrow, mountain blue bird, white-crowned sparrow, olive-sided fly-catcher, ouzel, pileated woodpecker, white-headed woodpecker, chipping sparrow, junco, and Lincoln sparrow.

Prairie falcons are not recorded in the Yosemite Valley, but are seen at Big Meadows and Aspen Valley. A nest near Groveland, 300' above the bottom and 80' below the top of a cliff, contained three vicious and quarrelsome youngsters, nearly ready to fly. The nest contained feathers of quail, robin, bluebird, meadowlark, band-tailed pigeon, sparrow hawk and lark sparrow, some of which birds must have been brought six miles or more.

A pygmy owl had raised a family in an old woodpecker nest, which contained a hatful of small bones, grasshopper legs, feathers, chipmunk hair and mouse tails. 200 yards from this nest was one containing three young screech owls, with fur and mammal bones but not a feather except those of the parents.

The white-throated swifts are most inspiring in their flights over the canyon, but their nests are generally quite inaccessible. Mr. McLean found one in Pine canyon on Mt. Diablo, located in a narrow crack and made oblong in shape to conform with the restricted quarters. With expressions of appreciation extended to the lecturer, the meeting then adjourned.

\* \* \*

On April 30, Miss Eva E. Busch, of San Francisco, was elected to membership in the Association.

## BIRDING ON THE ACROPOLIS

I spent an hour or two today "birding" on the Acropolis. I have often noticed small hawks, chaffinches and European goldfinches when I have been listening to archaeological lectures about the Parthenon or other buildings in this ancient citadel but today was devoted to birds, and I was rewarded for my efforts. I chose the south slope which was pleasantly warm and my first find was a Blue Thrush, high up on the inaccessible rock just below the twenty-foot wall which crowns the fortification. It was immediately recognizable as belonging to the thrush family for it had the habit of running a few steps, stopping short, fluttering its wings, bobbing and lifting its tail. Through my binoculars I could distinguish the colors though I could barely see the bird with my naked eyes: blue-grey on the back, bluer on the head and wings and some light edgings on the paler blue breast feathers. It seemed to be catching insects which were evidently to be found among the sun-warmed stones.

A little farther on, a familiar sound told me of the presence of a wren which I soon spied, perched with tail over its back on the tip of a cactus leaf. He is smaller than our Vigors' Wren and seems to be the only one of the Troglodytes in all the Palaearctic region.

As I passed beyond the top of the ancient theatre to the east end of the Acropolis the prospect for birds seemed very poor. Not a tree, no cactus, only a little ground mallow with a few wild marigolds and possibly dandelions (unless they had all been gathered during the morning for greens). But in the small triangle between the cliff, the barbed wire fence which shuts out the city, and a deep excavation trench were three species unknown to our continent. First, a Grey Wagtail had found a trickle of water which was being carefully led from a tiny spring under the edge of the cliff to a tinier tree which had been planted below. The most striking color on a Grey Wagtail is yellow but as there is also a Yellow Wagtail this one with a grey back and head is called the Grey. And there is no half way business about either the tail or the wag. The whole posterior part of the body seems to be lengthened before the tail begins in addition to which the tail feathers are elongated and it all wags continually as the bird runs about.

While I was still watching him I became conscious of several very tiny birds catching insects among the mallow leaves and the peculiar dip of the tail identified the Chiff-chaff. It is a common bird here at this season, usually in the high pine trees, though I have found it also searching for food under the trees. But this is the first time I have found it on a barren hillside.

Then on a lookout point of rock appeared a Black Redstart also with its tail constantly in motion though in a very different way. Shaped like a tiny thrush and with many thrush-like motions, it runs about among the stones or perches in a strategic position for spying out stray insects.

AMELIA SANBORN ALLEN.

Athens, Greece, January 16, 1925.



## BOBOLINK

Although but sparingly distributed west of the Rockies, and of scanty occurrence in California, we are all more or less familiar with this interesting little bird and the entire change of plumage undergone twice yearly by the male. The countless myriads which for so many years swarmed yearly along its migratory paths have been vastly reduced by pitiless slaughter. The Migratory Bird Treaty afforded protection for a brief space of time,

during the latter half of 1918, but in January, 1919, the Secretary of Agriculture had been persuaded that the bobolinks were seriously injurious to the rice crops of the Carolinas, Georgia and Florida, and their killing has since then been permitted. But only *one per cent.* or less, of the rice harvest of the country is now grown along the bobolink migration routes, and the Massachusetts Audubon Society has assumed a prominent part in the movement to secure the rescinding of this permission.

The bobclink, under its *alias* of "reed-bird" or "rice-bird", has long been a popular target for gunners in the marshes abounding in the Delaware Bay shores of New Jersey, and the New Jersey Audubon Society determined at its annual meeting in October, 1924, to take the short-cut to bobolink protection and to concentrate its legislative efforts upon securing prohibition of slaughter of this bird in its own state. In its Annual Bulletin, dated April 1, 1925, we learn of its gratifying success. The bobolink bill came promptly to a vote after it was reported out of committee and on February 24 it passed the Senate without a dissenting vote. On March 9 it passed the Assembly with only one lonely bay-shore county vote against it; was signed by Governor Silzer on March 12 and the bobolink once more received its rightful classification as a song and insectivorous bird under the laws of New Jersey.

\* \* \*

**APRIL FIELD TRIP** was taken on Sunday, the 19th, to the University Campus in Berkeley. The prospect of a party appeared dubious at first as considerable rain had fallen and the grass and ground were quite wet, although the day was beautiful and fine overhead. One or two at a time they came, however, until we had eleven. The latest accessions were Miss Ethel Levy and Mr. A. H. Myer, and when the members of the party had been adequately drilled into addressing that lady as Mrs. Myer, bird observations were resumed.

The feature of the day was the loitering of an ashy-throated flycatcher among the trees to the north of the old drill-ground until everyone present had had ample opportunity to observe it, and after lunch those who strayed into the upper canyon found a pair of Hutton vireos feeding their new family of nestlings in a dainty lichen basket swaying on one of the laurel trees bordering the road.

Birds encountered were: California quail, sharp-shinned, Cooper and sparrow hawks, willow woodpecker and flicker; Anna and Allen hummers, ashy-throated and western flycatchers, coast and California jays, meadow-lark, Brewer blackbird, purple finch, linnet, green-backed goldfinch, Nuttall sparrow and quite a flock of golden-crowned sparrows; junco, song sparrow, San Francisco and California towhees, black-headed grosbeak and a pair of Hutton vireos feeding young in nest; lutescent warbler, California thrasher, Vigors wren, titmouse; bush and wren-tits, hermit thrush and robin. Thirty-three species.

Members in attendance were: Mesdemoiselles Beaman, Ethel and Martha Crum, Sterne and Stevens; Mesdames Kibbe, Mexia and Myer; Messrs. Kibbe and Myer. As a guest, Miss Cockefair. Ten members and one guest.

A. S. KIBBE.

## AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

FOR THE STUDY AND THE PROTECTION OF BIRDS

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